

Appl. No. 09/802,196
Amdt. dated September 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 30, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendments

The claims are modified in the amendment. More specifically, claims 1, 2, 6, 12 and 15 have been amended; claims 8-10 have been cancelled; and new claims 24-26 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-7, 11-26 are present for examination. No new matter is added by these amendments. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 16-23 are allowed. The Office Action indicates that claim 6 is objected to, but no grounds are given. Applicant respectfully request clarification of the status of claim 6.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

The Office Action has rejected claims 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 6,035,390 to Burns et al. (hereinafter "Burns"). Further, the Office Action has rejected claims 1-4 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 6,085,208 to Oberman et al. (hereinafter "Oberman"). Finally, the Office Action has rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 6,014,723 to Tremblay et al. (hereinafter "Tremblay").

Claim 1 is rejected as anticipated by both Oberman and Tremblay. Amended Claim 1 is believed to distinguish either of these references. With a single instruction, claim 1 can determine if an array index is valid and write a predetermined value to a destination register based upon that determination. Oberman does not teach or suggest determining if an array index is valid in a single instruction and only does a simple comparison (i.e., PCMPGE). Oberman, FIGs. 49A, 49B and 49C; col. 47, lines 38-48. Tremblay does not teach or suggest writing a

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result to a register, but uses a status line instead. Tremblay, FIGs. 6A and 6C, reference designator 636.

With respect to claim 12, Burns and Tremblay are alternatively cited in anticipation rejections. Amended claim 12, requires that the flag setting function affect a stored base address for an array. In one embodiment, this allows writing an invalid base address to the destination register. Neither Burns nor Tremblay fairly teach or suggest this feature. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 and 12 is respectfully requested.

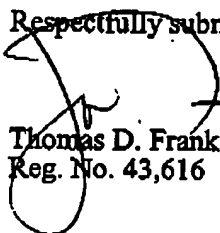
Interview Request

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas D. Franklin
Reg. No. 43,616

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
TDF:cmb
60256926 v1